

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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O 081430Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2110

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0883

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, SCUL, US

SUBJ: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: LOWENTHAL ARA/BC TELCON FEB 7; STOUT/SHLAUDEMANN TELCON FEB 8

1. SUMMARY. ST. GEORGE'S WILL BE SUBJECT OF UNUSUALLY HIGH LEVEL MEETING FEB 10. LOCAL HOLY CROSS ORDER IS PESSIMISTIC, BUT NATURE OF MEETING COULD ALSO BE SUCH AS TO IMPOSE ON RECALCITRANTS IN GOC SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO HOLY CROSS. END SUMMARY.

2. FATHER DONOSO OF HOLY CROSS ORDER INFORMED EMBOFF AFTERNOON FEB 7 THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLED TO MEETING FEB 10 WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET, FONMIN ADMIRAL CARVAJAL, EDUCATION MINISTER ADMIRAL CASTRO, MINSECYGEN OF GOVT GENERAL BEJARES, SENIOR CHILEAN CLERGYMAN, AND PAPAL NUNCIO.

3. DONOSO OPINED THAT MEETING WOULD BE DECISIVE, AND HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ON OUTCOME. SAID HE WOULD REPORT RESULTS TO EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY. EMBOFF REITERATED EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO INTERVENE FORMALLY SHOULD ORDER CONSIDER IT NECESSARY AND AS INSTRUCTED BY DEPARTMENT.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF LONG AND UNFORTUNATE HISTORY OF GOC'S TAKEOVER OF ST. GEORGE'S, DONOSO HAS REASON TO BE PESSIMISTIC. POSITION TAKEN BY THESE GOC LEADERS WOULD BE AUTHORITATIVE. IT OCCURS TO EMBASSY, HOWEVER, THAT
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ANOTHER INTERPRETATION IS POSSIBLE OF THIS UNUSUAL ASSEMBLAGE OF

HIGH RANKING PEOPLE.

5. NUNCIO IS STRONG PERSON AND REPRESENTS VATICAN'S DESIRE THAT SCHOOL BE RETURNED TO CHURCH ORDER. CHILEAN CLERGYMAN REPRESENTS INSTITUTION OF SOME IMPORTANCE IN CHILE. CARVAJAL WE SEE AS MODERATING INFLUENCE, SINCE HE IS INTERESTED IN CHILE'S IMAGE ABROAD AND PRESUMABLY WOULD LIKE TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH USG, VATICAN, AND CHILEAN CHURCH. BEJARES IS PINOCHET'S MAN BUT STRONG FIGURE IN HIS OWN RIGHT AND HAS COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY AMONG MINISTERS. PINOCHET HAS BEEN CONCILIATORY IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH FATHER HESBURGH LAST JULY, AND WITH HOLY CROSS PROVINCIAL FATHER LEWERS LAST MONTH; HE ALSO REALIZES IMPORTANCE OF CHILEAN IMAGE. CASTRO MAY BE THE ISOLATED VILLAIN, WHO, AT LEAST ON THE SURFACE, HAS SABOTAGED PINOCHET'S DESIRE TO WORK OUT PROBLEM AMICABLY. MEETING COULD THUS BE DESIGNED TO OFFER SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO HOLY CROSS, AND IN SUCH A WAY THAT CASTRO WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IMPLEMENTATION.

6. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ASAP.

7. FEB 10 MEETING WILL BE AT 12:00 NOON.
POPPER

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